



# KALAMAZOO Speedway TRACK TALK April 12, 2017

## PRE-SEASON TESTING

FREE ADMISSION

Join us!

Saturday, April 15: 1:00 – 5:00

Saturday, April 22: 1:00 – 5:00

Wednesday, April 26: 5:30 – 8:30

**IT'S ALMOST THAT TIME!!!**

16 more days until opening night!!

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Opening Night 2016  
Tyler Roahrig takes the checkered flag for  
the Intimidator 100

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL SAFETY TRAINING DAY

April 29 marks the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Safety Training at Kalamazoo Speedway, presented by the Speedway's Kalamazoo Track Services (KTS). Thirteen tracks representing a capacity crowd of 46 will be attending a day packed with vital training to promote successful outcomes to on-track incidents. Highlighting the day will be landing zone operations (with West Michigan Air Care) plus hands on extrication with the Speedway's newest pieces of training equipment, the "CutR" extrication simulator and the "FlipR". Paul Lapaire will be teaching the FlipR hands-on station in the afternoon as well as teaching a session during the morning.



Regular readers will recognize Lapaire as the man who built and donated the FlipR to Kalamazoo Speedway. Eight years ago, his daughter's fiancé, Ryan Bard, was killed in a fiery dirt track accident when Bard's car flipped over and he was unable to exit the vehicle. In response, Lapaire channeled his grief into constructing the FlipR, an authentic race chassis simulator designed to train drivers how to get out of a car following a rollover crash by building muscle memory through simulated practice. Kalamazoo Speedway owner, Gary Howe, said "Before someone can run on our track, the race car must be equipped with safety equipment that is proven to save lives, but any promoter will tell you that fire is another matter. Driver panic and fire has always scared me. This simulator will allow drivers to practice extrications so in the event a worst case scenario happens, both the driver and the Kalamazoo Track Services team can do everything in their power to ensure no one is hurt. We are overwhelmed by Paul's story and his incredible generosity in donating the "FlipR" to Kalamazoo Speedway."

While the Safety Training isn't designed for fans, last year about 100 fans showed up to watch the landing zone drill. Fans won't be turned away, but will be restricted to the grandstands.

Notes Jack Steele, Chief Director of Track Safety at Kalamazoo Speedway (pictured in the FlipR on the preceding page), "We are extremely lucky to have a race track [Kalamazoo Speedway] that puts safety before anything else. When it comes to safety Kalamazoo Speedway does not put a dollar amount on it. With our two new training simulators we hope to help change the face of safety for the racing community and help prevent injuries and fatalities at all costs."

Amen to that and let's have an awesome and safe 2017 season!!

## COUNTDOWN TO THE SEASON OPENER

### – CLEAR YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THE DATE FOR THE APRIL 28 OPENER

After counting down the days to the first pre-season practice and the season opener, it now seems surreal that the season is about to start! We hope Mother Nature gets all the snow, cold and torrential rain out of her system before we kick off the season. Already the weather is looking a bit grim for the April 15 practice, but it's Michigan and that sure could change. Three pre-season testing sessions are scheduled. The dates and times are listed on the first page and we hope to see a lot of you checking things out during one or all of the sessions. There is a lot of work being done and much left to be done before the season opener. New sponsors' banners and signs will be going up, a new storage facility is being built (between snow storms!) and everyone is going to want to check out the new entrance sign (both pictured below). Next week we'll be devoting some space in the newsletter to our sponsors. They enrich all of our track experiences and are deserving of some extra recognition for their efforts.



## NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The redesigned website has been launched. If you haven't checked it out, give it a look. We think you'll like the improvements and we're looking forward to making the site even more informative and easier to negotiate.

## LOOKING BACK: BENEFIT FOR MICK BROOKS & 2017 "ZOO" MEET AND GREET



The March 26 benefit for Mick Brooks at Pinz Kalamazoo was packed with people who came out to support the Brooks family. For those new to the Speedway, Michael "Mick" Brooks is facing a long recovery following a horrific accident that sent a sprint car over the fence injuring Mick and two others at the Volusia Speedway Park this past February in Florida. A BIG thank you to everyone for participating and caring. Special thanks go to Greg Cady and Andy Bozell for their very generous donations and to Buddy Head for making the great Kalamazoo Speedway themed cornhole boards (pictured) for the silent auction. Over \$10,500 was raised by the Kalamazoo Speedway family for the Brooks family!

While onsite, about 75 drivers took advantage of getting all signed up for the 2017 racing season and everyone present had an opportunity to reconnect, look ahead to the 2017 season and support the Brooks family.

## KASTEN INSULATION BLASTING & COATINGS OFFERS THE RENT-A-RIDE CHALLENGE

The 2017 racing season marks the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for the Kalamazoo Speedway Rent-a-Ride program. An instant success and fan favorite, each week fans get the opportunity to strap into a real race car and compete in an authentic race against drivers who race on a weekly basis. Several Rent-a-Ride drivers have been very impressive with one driver winning the feature event in 2015. Troy Wilkes came within feet of claiming the \$500 in late 2016.

Now, thanks to Mick Kasten, owner of Kasten Insulation Blasting & Coatings, there is more incentive than ever for one of the rookie drivers to pick up the victory! Kasten Insulation Blasting & Coatings is offering \$500 to any first time Rent-a-Ride driver who wins the 'A' feature.



Rent-a-Rides will be available beginning on Friday, May 5th and will continue through the season. For more information on the program, call Kenny at the Speedway office at (269) 692-2423 or email [gary@kalamazospeedway.com](mailto:gary@kalamazospeedway.com).

## TECHWORKS TRAILER SALES & TEAM SPIRIT TRAILERS TEAM UP AGAIN IN 2017!



The trailer raffle is back for 2017! Team Spirit Trailers and Techworks Trailer Sales have teamed up to generously donate a \$9,500 nicely equipped 24' Track Champ Enclosed Trailer as the 2017 prize. Not only will one lucky ticket holder win this trailer, but 100% of the raffle ticket proceeds will benefit the Speedway's Christmas family adoption program: Zoo Kares for Kids. Kalamazoo Speedway adopted over 40 kids last year and donated to several local food programs over the holiday season. All this was possible because of the proceeds from the 2016 trailer raffle and Techworks Trailer Sales' and Team Spirit Trailers' generosity.



New this year! Before the trailer is manufactured, Jason Seltzer, track announcer, will be running a contest on Facebook during April to choose the color(s) of the new trailer. The winner of the "Color Our Team Spirit/Techworks Trailer" contest will win an 8 person skybox for May 5.



Tickets will be available trackside beginning at the first open practice on April 15 and will be \$5 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20. The trailer will be on display on the midway starting in late May with the winning ticket being drawn at the Super Shoe Nationals. Pictured are Julie Lewis (the 2016 raffle winner), boyfriend Donnie Brest, with Walt Obrieski and Mike Stutzman (and family) from Spirit Trailers and Techworks Trailer Sales.

Kalamazoo Speedway is proud to partner with Team Spirit Trailers and Techworks Trailer Sales for the 2017 racing season. Show your appreciation by contacting Walt at Techworks Trailer Sales ([www.techworkstrailers.com/contact](http://www.techworkstrailers.com/contact)) for any of your trailer needs and ask him about a new Team Spirit Trailer ([www.TeamSpiritTrailers.com](http://www.TeamSpiritTrailers.com)) for the upcoming 2017 racing season.

## DRIVERS' CORNER: TECH BULLETIN HIGHLIGHTS

Combining limited time for tech inspections and Hoosier developing a much racier tire designed for the older used up asphalt that most short tracks have, we find that the new D-800 (which has proved to be a very good tire) seems to be an attractive candidate for tire soak, it seemed wise to put everyone on notice. Like anyone who races at the Speedway would think of soaking, because everyone knows that soaking isn't legal at the Speedway. Right? To say nothing of the toxicity of the soak. Don't make fun; kids read this!



You all know your tread, wheel width and spoiler height rules. If you're a bit hazy after the long winter, rules for each division are handily posted on the Kalamazoo Speedway website. And temptation being what it is, there are penalties for intentional infractions.

If the infraction is caught during your hot lap/qualifying session with (but not limited to) tires that are soaked, your tread or wheel width too wide, your spoiler height too high, or if your car isn't at legal weight, your qualifying time will be scratched for the night and you'll find yourself at the tail end of the field for your heat and feature. If you're caught during any of your racing events all points and money (and humor) are forfeited for the night.

Also, please take note of the first rule posted for all 5 weekly divisions and thrown into the general rules for good measure: mufflers. All cars will have a working muffler and all exhaust will exit below the car. Trying to earn points reminding any of the officials of how long you've gotten away with running without a muffler will not earn you favor. Every car in every division is subject to and expected to follow this rule, including private track rentals. Traveling cars will have their exhaust pointing down below the car or they will purchase one of our new deflectors for \$40 and they will be properly installed before being allowed to take a single lap. The muffler rule is waived only for the Kalamazoo Klash and the Gary Terry "Follow Your Dreams" 125.

